

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A container, comprising:
a container body defining a cavity; and
a tearable flap connected to the container body, the flap being positionable in open and closed orientations, the flap comprising a first side having at least two rows or lines of areas of reduced thickness ~~defined in a row or line~~ extending approximately from length's end to length's end of the flap and a pair of nicks at either end of the flap, wherein the nick ends are within the boundaries of at least the outermost rows or lines of areas of reduced thickness, and a second side having a continuous film material, wherein the flap is a plastic film, such that when the flap is positioned in the closed orientation the first side is an inner side and the second side is an exterior side.
2. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 1, wherein the tearable flap formed from at least first and a second plastic films, wherein the first film has perforations that extend completely through the thickness of the first film and wherein the second film does not have perforations.
- 3.-5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The container of Claim 1, comprising a tearable flap formed from at least two films, wherein each film is formed from a plurality of layers.
7. (Original) The container of Claim 1, comprising a tearable flap formed from at least two films, wherein each film is a three layer co-extruded polyethylene film.
8. (Original) The container of Claim 1, comprising a tearable flap formed from a first and a second film, wherein the first film is translucent and the second film is opaque.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 1, comprising means for tearing the flap, said means including two or more rows or lines of reduced thickness on the first side aligned from length's end to length's end of the flap, wherein the tearable flap does not have any strings, tear strips or tapes to assist with tearing the flap.

11. (Original) The container of Claim 1, wherein the flap is made from polyethylene.

12.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 1, wherein the container is an envelope.

15.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A tearable closure for opening a sealed container, comprising:

at least first and second films bonded together, wherein the first and second films are polymer films, the first film facing the interior of the sealed container and including rows of perforations or score lines that extend through the thickness of the first film across the tearable closure, and the second film facing the exterior of the sealed container and being a continuous film material, the at least first and second films bonded together including a tear initiating portion, wherein at least a portion of the tear initiating portion is within the boundaries of at least the outermost rows of perforations or score lines for initiating a tear along the rows of perforations or score lines.

29. (Original) The tearable closure of Claim 28, wherein the tearable closure is a flap, lid or tape.

30. (Previously presented) The tearable closure of Claim 28, wherein the second film does not include perforations or score lines.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A container with a tearable closure, comprising:

a container body defining a cavity; and

a tearable closure connected to the container body comprising a polymer film, the tearable closure being positionable in open or closed orientations, the tearable closure having first and second sides and a thickness extending therethrough, wherein the first side has score lines that extend through a portion of the thickness of the film and the second side does not include score lines, wherein the first side is an inner side when the closure is positioned in the closed orientation, the tearable closure further including a tear initiating portion, wherein at least a portion of the tear initiating portion is within the boundaries of at least the outermost score lines for initiating a tear along the score lines.

33. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 32, wherein the container is an envelope.

34. (Original) The container of Claim 32, wherein the tearable closure is a flap, lid, or tape.

35. (Original) The container of Claim 32, wherein the container is an envelope and the tearable closure is a flap.

36. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 32, wherein the tearable closure comprises a first and a second film, wherein the first film has perforations that extend completely through the thickness of the first film, and the second film does not include perforations.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A container, comprising:

a container body defining a cavity; and

a tearable flap connected to the container body, wherein the flap comprises an inner translucent film and an outer opaque film, wherein the inner translucent film has perforations that extend completely through the thickness of the inner translucent film and the outer opaque film does not have perforations, the inner film comprising two or more rows of perforations extending from length's end to length's end of the flap, wherein the inner film is oriented towards the cavity when the container is closed, and wherein the flap is a plastic film, the flap including a tear initiating portion, wherein at least a portion of the tear initiating portion is within the boundaries of at least the outermost rows of perforations for initiating a tear along score lines.

39. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 38, wherein the two or more rows of perforations are substantially parallel to each other.

40. (Original) The container of Claim 39, wherein the rows are along an edge of the container.

41. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 1, comprising a tearable flap with a plurality of score lines on the first side from length's end to length's end of the flap.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 1, further comprising an adhesive strip approximately from length's end to length's end of the flap.

44. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 1, further comprising an adhesive strip approximately from length's end to length's end of the flap and a cover strip on the adhesive strip.

45. (Withdrawn) The container of Claim 1, wherein the container is a bag or a box.

46. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 32, wherein the container is a bag or a box.

47. (Currently amended) A tearable opening for a sealed container, comprising:
a polymer film having first and second sides and a thickness, the first side having score lines that extend through a portion of the thickness and the second side not having score lines, wherein the film is a continuous film of homogeneous composition, such that when the container is sealed the first side is oriented toward the interior of the container and the second side is oriented toward the exterior of the container, the film further including a tear initiating portion, wherein at least a portion of the tear initiating portion is within the boundaries of at least the outermost score lines for initiating a tear along score lines.

48. (Currently amended) A tearable closure for opening a sealed container, comprising:

first and second polymer films bonded together, the first film facing the interior of the sealed container and including rows of perforations or score lines that extend through the thickness of the first film across the tearable closure and the second film facing the exterior of the sealed container and being a continuous film material, the first and second polymer films

further including a tear initiating portion, wherein at least a portion of the tear initiating portion is within the boundaries of at least the outermost rows of perforations or score lines for initiating a tear along the rows of perforations or score lines.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 1, wherein the nicks are at an angle to the rows or lines of areas of reduced thickness.

51. (New) The container of Claim 28, wherein the tear initiating portion is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of nicks and a tab.

52. (New) The container of Claim 32, wherein the tear initiating portion is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of nicks and a tab.

53. (New) The container of Claim 38, wherein the tear initiating portion is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of nicks and a tab.

54. (New) The container of Claim 47, wherein the tear initiating portion is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of nicks and a tab.

55. (New) The container of Claim 48, wherein the tear initiating portion is selected from the group consisting of a plurality of nicks and a tab.